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No donations to charities or otherwise will be made in advertising, or job printing—our contributions will be in cash.

DECEMBER 31

A BENEDECTION:—Unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to preserve you faultless.—Jude 24.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW

We are at the parting of the way. Old Father Time is shuffling along and within a few hours will write 'finis' at the end of 1923.

The year has brought only slight changes in affairs of our nation or in the problems of the world. Questions that have vexed the nations of the earth since 1918 are no nearer a solution now than at the close of 1922.

Starvation, disease, sovietism and bolshevism stalk many countries and only the charity of the nations more fortunately situated can prevent a spread of the forces that threaten to overcome the world.

The close of the old year finds many of the former leading powers economically and politically helpless. Their condition casts a burden on the stable nations of the universe which must be borne if this world is to regain its equilibrium and peace and prosperity return.

The day of commercial independence has passed—that is we are interdependent if we are to enjoy the greatest degree of commercial prosperity. World conditions have reached a point where the strong must aid the weak. There is no other alternative. Ultimately the United States must extend to the tottering nations of Europe constructive aid that will serve to remedy conditions, and assist them in regaining a solid footing politically, socially and economically.

The old year holds no great achievements for the United States, but it must be said to the credit of this great republic that we have advanced. Although we are not free of the depression that has retarded our industrial and commercial growth, there are indications of improvement. Our public debt has been somewhat decreased. The process of liquidation is well on its way, and although it has been with the greatest difficulty, we have attained a firmer financial and industrial foundation than of which we stood a year ago.

Credit for the gradual improvement achieved during the past year belongs not to any administrative or congressional acts, but to those actively engaged in the various lines that indicate improvement. In other words, many lines of activities have aided in solving their own problems, just as agriculture must work out its own economic salvation, and just as the heads of the livestock industry must evolve their own financial salvation.

We have undoubtedly reached the peak of public expenditures. The burden imposed by taxes is heavy, but there are strong indications that we are now entering an era of gradual tax reduction, a condition that will aid all lines of activity.

We are entering a presidential campaign year. In the past we contemplated presidential campaigns with more or less fear of a commercial depression, and not without cause. But the campaigns of 1912, 1916, and 1920 proved exceptions, and business all but proceeded along normal lines. With the possible exception of the coming presidential election engendering uneasiness in the business and industrial circles of the country the New Year should witness a continuation of the upward trend in the various affairs and activities of our country.

MEMORIALS TO OUR PRESIDENTS

The erection of beautiful and enduring memorial to honor the memory of a dead President of our country is carried on in the same dilatory manner that characterizes our actions toward our neighbors—we purchase beautiful bouquets after they are dead. As we fail to recognize the true worth of our friends and neighbors until they are lifeless so do we neglect to pay honor to our illustrious presidents and statesmen until they have passed from the scene of action and mortality.

A movement, well organized and meeting with a loyal and generous response, is under way to erect a suitable memorial to the honor of our recently departed President, Warren G. Harding. Men and women from all stations in life are subscribing to the Harding memorial fund.

But how much better it would be had we not waited until after his death to accord the dead president the honor and homage we accord him in his lifeless state! The

country will respond nobly to the call for the Harding Memorial, and as they contribute to the fund they will recall the many fine qualities of the man and the president. But Harding is gone, and no doubt his demise was hastened by the opposition that was arrayed against him both within and without his party.

Friday, December 28 marked the sixty-seventh anniversary of the birth of Ex-President Woodrow Wilson. The news dispatches of the day told us that he was spending the day in his usual custom—secluded in his home on S street. He received many messages and telegrams, some from abroad, congratulating him on having attained his sixty-seventh birthday. But, wounded and maimed as other veterans of the war, who knows but that Wilson welcomed death rather than another birthday? He is aware of the antagonism that prevails against him from his own countrymen, but is he aware of the honor and esteem in which millions of America hold him? Likely not, and in common with some of his predecessors, and his successor, he will go to his grave, broken in spirit and in heart with the thought that he is a political outcast, unloved, unloved and undeserving.

Wilson is the most pitiable character in American history. No man has been accorded greater honors. None have received so much of criticism and condemnation. No other individual in the world's history, except the Saviour, was ever the recipient of the honor that was accorded Wilson in his ascendancy. No man in American political history has been the object of so much vituperation. The fight launched against him is unparalleled in intensity and ferocity. As a result he is almost an exile, a physical wreck, awaiting only the call of his Maker to relieve him of his burdens and sorrow.

Woodrow Wilson was broken in spirit and in health while in the service of his country and humanity. Right or wrong in his principles matters not. Time alone will tell the story. But there is no denying the fact that coming generations will accord him the place he deserves in history. It will be an honorable position. Then why delay according to him the honor that is due? To give Wilson the honor that is due will not only send a ray of happiness into his broken heart, but will give happiness to those of his day and generation.

A NOVEL ARRANGEMENT

Human energy is hard put to keep pace with the high-speed jobs of our times. Zeal sometimes overdraws its account of health, and so it is that men of great usefulness are bankrupted of their strength. But some there be who take thought of their physical resources. Consider the case of Samuel Vauclain, president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works at Philadelphia.

About five years ago Mr. Vauclain took stock of his health and concluded that he needed expert counsel to keep him fit. To that purpose he made a ten-year contract with a physician, with the retainer for the first year increased each year during the term of the contract. The increase of payment was put into the contract because Mr. Vauclain believed that the greater his age, the physician's obligation to keep him well would become harder to meet. Should Mr. Vauclain become sick, the annual fee is to be reduced in proportion to the duration of the illness.

Of the success of the arrangement, Mr. Vauclain says: In that time I have not lost a day from business, nor have I been ill in any way. I am heavier, stronger and more active than I was five years ago.

The quality of the traditional ounce of prevention and the well-known pound of cure has long stood as a glib caution to consider the frailties of our clay. Mr. Vauclain has demonstrated that the prevention of sickness is worthy of a premium.—The Nation's Business.

A hustler has no time for bad luck.

The best nation in the world is explanation.

Do You Think Mary Quite Contrary?



YOU'VE all heard of a certain young woman named Mary who was unusually contrary, but do you think this fits the Mary depicted above?

The lovely Mary you see before you is pretty Mary Astor, who plays opposite John Barrymore in the forthcoming Warner Classic, "Beau Brummel."

But should a bride look as wistful as Mary does? Ah! That's a question that needs much propounding, and, after all, we mustn't tell you the whole story, must we?

NEWS LETTER

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30.—Ezra Pound, Philadelphia's exotic exponent of several arts, is not a nuisance, but a composer in the eyes of the French law. There's an interesting story connected with Pound's annexation of the title, after a court had weighed a charge of nuisance brought against him and several companions who were inclined to twiddle musical instruments to the dissatisfaction of neighbors. Pound related the incident in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer L. Pound, here.

It seems that Philly's own poet had lately tired of burning nocturnal petroleum churning out modernistic poems in six languages and turned to music. The ultra in music was his objective, and he apparently succeeded, for his first public presentation of original compositions in the Salle Conservatoire, Paris, left him and his brain children high and dry, while his audience, critics included, fondered miles behind. To assist him in the interpretation of his compositions the successor to Pound's poetic pen was a bassoon, well known for its appearance as an advertisement for opium pipes and for emitting a noise like the battle cry of an army mule.

Completing his opus, Pound proceeded to evince his disagreement with the operatic theories expounded by Wagner, Bizet, Verdi and the others, by enlisting the lungs of a cornetist and a French-horn player. The trio tackled the task of interpretation; the opera, thanks to the bassoon, et al, touched depths never hitherto sounded or known—depths so low as to arouse the envy of the German mark.

Then the neighbors, that portion of humanity seemingly always imposed upon, took "note" and horned-in. They lodged a complaint of nuisance with the gendarmes, claiming music was "okay as is," but not when three satellites of Apollo blast a tenement with instrumental contortions, each in a different key.

To court the case went, and Pound contended the opera must be heard then and there, "else how can this distinguished Court decide whether the music is a nuisance?"

"Mon Dieu! Helas!" and other French words and phrases that serve as SOS signals, rent the air and held the lease to Pound's exclusion and until the Court secured order and pronounced: "If I will free you, M. Pound, will you practice this noble opus elsewhere?"

M. Pound acquiesced, bowed gracefully, thanked the Court for its kind recognition of him as a composer and not a nuisance, and made exeunt, bassoon, opus, satellites, et al.

VENISON POSSESSOR IS GIVEN HEAVY FINE

EUGENE, Dec. 31.—L. T. Groat, south Lane rancher, who with S. O. Read was arrested Thursday at their mountain cabin with venison in their possession, was fined \$125 by Justice of the Peace Jesse G. Wells Saturday, and the case against Read was dismissed as both stated that Read had not killed any deer and never went hunting with Groat.



Jackie will appear in "Long Live the King," at the Vining Theatre, New Year's Day and Wednesday.

RATS

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DEATH RATE LOWER FROM CHILDBIRTH

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The department of Commerce announced lower death rates of mothers from childbirth or puerperal causes in 1922 than in any year since 1916.

For the 9 states and the District of Columbia (constituting the "Birth Registration Area" of 1915, exclusive of Rhode Island), the death rate from puerperal causes in 1922 was 6.2 per 1,000 live births as compared with 6.5 in 1921, 7.6 in 1920, 6.8 in 1919, 8.9 in 1918, 6.3 in 1917, 6.2 in

1916, and 6.1 in 1915. The relatively high rates for the years 1920, 1919, and 1918 were doubtless due, for the most part at least, to the epidemics of influenza which prevailed in those years and which took heavy toll of pregnant women. The ratio of deaths from childbirth to the number of women bearing children in 1922 was 1 to 150.

Of the 30 states for which figures are available, South Carolina has the highest 1922 death rate from puerperal causes (10.7 per 1,000 live births), and Minnesota the lowest (4.9.) Separate rates for the white and colored are shown for only the six states of Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. For 1922 the highest rate for the white appears

for South Carolina (8.5) and the lowest (5.3) for Maryland, while for the colored the highest rate (18.5) is for Kentucky, and the lowest (8.4) for Maryland.

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Most folks do. But, why? For information, education, profit, or all three? The habit of reading the advertisements of local merchants, Ashland merchants, who use space in the Tidings to tell you of their new merchandise, styles, qualities values, in clothing, food, insurance, accessories, tires for your car, shoes, meats, paints, hardware, sporting goods.—the habit of reading advertisements thoroly and completely—should be increased by business men, young men, as well as by women.
The local merchant is responsible, and is making a direct appeal to each and every reader, not only in telling you something about his goods, but indirectly supporting home industry and directly aiding in the development of this community. As a matter of civic loyalty and interest in the business side of reading, the economical side with the sport, fiction and sensational, you ought to develop the habit of reading the ads of your local merchants, in the Tidings.